

THE



## STANDARD

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**FROM THE COMMANDER**

Wow! The Past year has gone by quickly. It seems like only yesterday that I grabbed the battalion guidon. The adage that time flies when you're having fun holds some truth. This past quarter has reflected a high turnover in the leadership of the battalion. Since the last newsletter, five OCS Companies have changed command. We have witnessed the exodus of some incredible company commanders: Wiggins, Danner, Nalls, Ferguson, and Daniels, as well as the battalion S3, MAJ Williams, and XO, MAJ O'Steen. The battalion continues to be blessed with great new talent to replace these loses. The new batting lineup is: B Co - CPT(P) Charley Price and his wife Kelly; C Co - CPT (P) Matt Morgan and his wife Mary; D Co – CPT Tim Rose and his wife Stephanie; E Co – CPT John Craft and his wife Beth; and HHC – CPT Angela Lamborn and her husband David . Moving up as the S3 is MAJ Ray Fergusson and his wife Debbie. Taking over as XO is MAJ Mark Danner with his wife Latondra.

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**“STANDARDS! NO COMPROMISE!!”**

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...From the Commander, continued.

In years past it wasn't unusual to have 100 candidates at a class start or even cancel classes due to low candidate show rates. That hasn't been an issue over the past 12 months. Our class sizes have all been substantial with our lowest being at 120 candidates. The Army recognizes the OCS potential to produce officers in short order and they are filling our classes to meet the needs of the force. We have thus been very busy doing the unglamorous but critical mission of training and educating officer candidates. Even with our cadre turnover turbulence the BN has continued to do a superb job in producing hundreds of Second Lieutenants ready to progress on with their officer training at BOLC II and then their officer basic courses.

The Commander of Cadet Command, MG Winfield, recently visited OCS for two days to get a feel for how we do business. He was very impressed with what we accomplish in just 14 weeks, and recognized the significance of the OCS program.

We continue to seek out ways to improve the training and education of our candidates. Of note, this past quarter we've focused on the classroom instruction that the candidates receive at Infantry Hall. We want to ensure that the candidates have preparation requirements for each class and that the instruction material is nested with the latest doctrine and practices of the Army. As part of this process, we hosted a detailed review meeting with the leadership and instructors of the Combined Arms and Tactics Directorate. We will continue this process to ensure that our future Second Lieutenants are receiving the best instruction that we can muster.

In closing I want to thank all of our cadre and their families for the total dedication that they give to accomplish our mission on a daily basis. It is my hope that I have been able to positively impact both the quality of life for both the candidates and the cadre over this past year.

STANDARDS, NO COMPROMISE!

*LTC Curtis J. Carson*  
Battalion Commander



# NO COMPROMISE!!"

## ALPHA COMPANY

The pace at Alpha Company has continued to roll along. We graduated Class 05-06 on 15 June with 129 new Second Lieutenants and had three weeks to rest and prepare for the next cycle. A Co has a great group of cadre willing to accept this challenge. I would like to take a moment and welcome some new cadre and say goodbye to some of the seasoned ones. CPT Eric Greek comes to us from Company Command in Korea. CPT Greek will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Training Officer. CPT Andy Mason is from Fort Bragg where he served as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. CPT Mason is accompanied by his wife Kristin and his daughter Carter, who is one year old. Sadly, we say goodbye to SSG Davis, 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon Trainer NCO, who has left A Co for recruiting duty. We wish him, his wife Manuela and their three children, Daniela, Toni, and Noah good luck in this new assignment. CPT Angela Lamborn has had a busy year. She gave birth to her daughter Jasmine in April and took command of HHC in June. CPT Lamborn will do an exemplary job as company commander and continue to support OCS Candidates.

Alpha Company picked up class 08-06 on 10 July 2006 with 168 officer candidates. They have been conducting many physical activities and receiving classroom instruction that will set the pace of their future careers. As of this date they have adjusted to the fast pace of OCS, completing FLX 1. Class 08-06 continues to perform well and will continue to receive excellent training on their way to graduation.

*CPT Douglas Smith*

A Co Commander



## BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company graduated 125 Second Lieutenants on 13 July 2006. The class originally started with 160 officer candidates. I would like to thank our cadre for their excellent work during OCS class 06-06. Currently Bravo Company is on cycle break enjoying leave, certification classes, and preparing for our next cycle pickup on 5 September 2006.

On 14 July 2006 the company changed command from MAJ Wiggins to CPT Price. MAJ Wiggins and his family are attending the Acquisition Officer Basic Course in Alabama. MAJ Wiggins will be missed in Bravo Company. Bravo Company also welcomes a new Platoon Trainer this month with CPT Fabian arriving on 31 July 2006. The rest of Bravo Companies Cadre is staying with Bravo Company for OCS class 10-06 in September 2006.

Standards. No Compromise.

*CPT Charles Price*

B Co Commander





## CHARLIE COMPANY

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone in the battalion and community for the warm welcome that my family and I have received here at Fort Benning. In a unit that is truly going in five different directions with each separate company, the welcome has been great. The cadre have been very approachable and open and made the transition easy.

Change is constant in the Army and OCS is no different. Just as I am new to the unit, the Company must bid farewell to MAJ Danner, 1SG Braaten, and SFC Gay. They will be missed in the company, but they will continue to serve OCS. MAJ Danner has assumed duties as the Battalion Executive Officer, 1SG Braaten is transitioning into First Sergeant duties in HHC, while SFC Gay has picked up training duties in E Co.

With their departure, we welcome 1SG Quinn, CPT Bucher, and SFC Phillips. First Sergeant Quinn joins the Company from B Co. CPT Bucher joins OCS from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and Battery command there. SFC Phillips joins the team from 3d Brigade, 3d Infantry Division at Kelly Hill. CPT Bucher and SFC Phillips have recently returned from Iraq and will bring that experience to the company for the benefit of the candidates. I am honored to serve among such men.

Continuing on the theme of change, it is absolutely awesome to be part of an organization that is learning, growing, and changing to capitalize on the opportunities of the environment. OCS is undergoing some changes to ensure we can appropriately meet our objective of providing commissioned officers knowledgeable in fundamentals and leadership. As the Army continues to change with the advent of BOLC II, changing of OBC/BOLC III, and the changing environment in FORSCOM units, OCS continues to adjust to provide the best product possible. It is also great to serve among a cadre that have such a wealth of knowledge and experience from around the world and from a vast array of units. My job here is very simple and easy with the great cadre in the Company and Battalion supporting the team.

**CPT Matthew T. Morgan**  
Charlie Company Commander



ROUGH RIDERS!

## DELTA COMPANY

Delta Company started Class 0706 on 05 June 2006, and we haven't slowed down a bit! And, despite the tempo of daily operations, it is an honor and a privilege to watch the candidates come together as a team and develop as individuals. Over the weeks the candidates have completed Combat Water Survival Training, the Confidence Obstacle Course, the Leader Reaction Course, Land Navigation, Squad Situational Training Lanes (FLX I), and a wide variety of classes, all that are helping them to develop as officers and Second Lieutenants. They have executed an 11-day Field Leadership Exercise (FLX II), building on FLX 1 training and culminating in platoon training and evaluation lanes. They will soon finish up classroom instruction and prepare to graduate.

Recently, Delta Company said farewell to CPT Scott Oldenburg. His candor and tremendous sense of humor will be sorely missed both in Delta Company and in the Army. In the very near future we will be saying farewell to SFC Torres and SSG Branscum, both of whom are moving on to positions overseas.

As it is with the Army, farewells are accompanied by welcomes! Delta Company welcomes CPT McCullough, SSG Fischel, and SSG Johnson, all of whom are ready to jump in feet first in support of our mission here at OCS.

The Delta Company cadre continue to support the mission at OCS with enthusiasm, candor, and efficiency. Day to day I am amazed at the level of professionalism of these exemplary Officers and NCOs from across the branches of the Army. Each of them provides the candidates a unique perspective on what it takes to be an Officer in today's dynamic Army and on today's battlefield. So a personal thanks goes out from me to them: 1SG Argo, CPT Kinney, CPT Davis, CPT Haggas, CPT McCullough, 1LT Long, 2LT Schmidt, SFC Stewart, SFC Moran, SFC Torres, SSG Gregory, SSG Fischel, and Mr. Hollingsworth for their dedication and commitment to the standard!

**CPT Tim Rose**  
Delta Company Commander

DELTA COMPANY



DAWG POUND

# NO COMPROMISE!!"

## ECHO COMPANY

Echo Company started Class 502-06 on 22 May with 158 candidates. Cadre and candidates alike have been tremendously busy, and much has been accomplished. The class has endured multiple hours of classroom instruction and testing as well as land navigation, FLX I (squad and platoon level training), and FLX II (field evaluations). As always, it has been rewarding for the cadre to watch the class mesh as a team and progress through the course learning about their commission and developing their individual leadership styles. The class is counting down to graduation on 24 August and their transition into the Army as new second lieutenants.

Recently Echo Company bid farewell to MSG Dawn Charleswell and SPC Christopher Farrier. MSG Charleswell left the battalion to attend the Sergeant Major Academy at Ft. Bliss, Texas. SPC Farrier departed the company on 12 July to attend aircraft mechanic training as he changes his MOS and moves to Germany for his follow on assignment. We wish them well.

With the departure of SPC Farrier, we welcomed into the company SSG Marcie Montgomery as our new supply sergeant. SSG Montgomery transitioned to the company from E Co. 507<sup>th</sup> PIR. SSG Montgomery hit the ground running with little transition time and has played a huge role in facilitating the company in accomplishing our mission here at OCS. Welcome SSG Montgomery and your four children Victoria, Anthony, Aspen, and Justin. We also welcomed in a new 1SG, James Hooten. 1SG Hooten transitioned to the company from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger RGT. 1SG Hooten is an outstanding combat multiplier who has been instrumental in daily operations since his arrival. Welcome 1SG Hooten and your three daughters Jesse, Nicci, and Natalie.

We also had a couple of cadre welcome some new arrivals of their own this past quarter. Jordan Taylor Hunt, daughter of Deann and SFC Steven Hunt was born on 19 June, and Desireih Casandra Dallas, daughter of Madonna and SSG Daryl Dallas, was born on 25 June. Congratulations!

The Echo Company cadre continue to do great things in support of the OCS by providing the Army with leaders of character who live by the Warrior Ethos and Army Values. I am privileged to be surrounded by a great team of Noncommissioned Officers and Officers that know what right looks like and willing to put in the time and effort to achieve that standard. Thank you for your professionalism and your dedication to provide the Army with a quality Officer.

**CPT John Craft**  
Echo Company Commander



## HHC

Hello to everyone in HHC. My family and I are happy to have this opportunity to be a part of a great team! I want to thank MAJ Daniels who made my transition better than I could have imagined. I also want to thank SFC Gaskins who made HHC's inventories less painful than what I expected. After suffering a black and blue hamstring injury, 1SG Jones is recovering and taking out his frustrations on the candidates—everyone be nice to him! The cadre has had to pick up the slack and whip these candidates into shape. We sent 168 fighting machines to Alpha Company on 9 July and we sent the next batch Charlie Company on 21 August.

This month has been a scorcher with temperatures of 100 degrees or more. In addition to mitigating the heat, we are also mitigating the loss of some outstanding soldiers during the next quarter. MAJ O'Steen left us on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July for CGSC. MAJ Ferguson, back from a cruise with Mickey and friends, is leaving us in Oct for a year long tasking to Iraq. 1SG Jones and SFC Phippen also have one foot out the door as they prepare to retire on 02 Nov. Good luck to everyone and keep in touch!

In addition to losing some folks, we are gaining some great folks as well. We want to welcome CPT Shannon Burgoyne and husband CPT Jeffrey Burgoyne. She has moved into the S-1 shop and is already making the S-1's job less stressful. We also want to welcome MAJ Mark Danner who comes to us from Charlie Company. He has taken the reigns of the BN XO position since July. SSG Baguley, coming from E Co, now joins us as our new S2. SFC Antonio Nicholas, wife Elbonita, and children, Antonio and Panache join us from the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in Arkansas. SFC Nicholas will be taking over for SFC Phippen in the next few weeks. Finally, we want to welcome 1SG Thomas Braaten and wife, Teresa who come to us from Charlie Company.

On 17 July, we were treated to an HHC Appreciation Lunch courtesy of LTC Carson and Mrs. Carson. We want to extend our gratitude and appreciation for this great event! The cookies were outstanding Mrs. Carson, especially the sugar cookies.

Again, thanks for your continued service to this nation. Every one of you makes a difference, believe it or not. I appreciate your hard work and your commitment to the candidates and cadre of OCS.

**CPT Angela Lamkorn**  
HHC Commander





# "STANDARDS!"



## SIGHTINGS



**MAJ O'Steen receives his PCS Award**



**The HHC Appreciation Lunch**



**Field Worship with Delta Company**



**Combatives at E Co's Infantry Branching Run**



**Echo Co's Senior Officer Candidate Review**



**MAJ Wiggins receives his PCS Award**

## COMMUNITY

The **Community Activities Resource Exchange (CARE)** Newsletter 2006 is published monthly in the interest of the Fort Benning Community, Volunteers, and Family Readiness Groups. It contains useful information and points of contact for community, soldier, and family resources, forms of assistance for Soldiers and families, community activities, and educational opportunities—to name just a few.

The newsletter is pushed out monthly via email and can also be found online as well at <http://www.martin.amedd.army.mil/news/CARE%20monthly%20notification.doc>

If you have a submission for the CARE notes, POC is:  
Barbara Singleton – Contractor, AFAP/AFTB Office, 545-5377, Building 2626, Soldier Plaza, Fort Benning.

Please take advantage of this great resource!

### THRIFT SHOP

(Ronda Smith, Thrift Shop Manager 687-4830, Advisor Chris Brooks)

**New hours:** Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

### BIT OF BENNING GIFT SHOP

Located next to the Thrift Shop on the corner of Ingersoll and Dixie Road, contains Fort Benning Memorabilia and unique gifts. Volunteers are always welcome. Call 687-3537 for more information.

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### OCS CADRE SPOUSES COFFEE GROUP

**If you are interested in being a member of the OCS Coffee Group that meets once a quarter, please send your personal e-mail address to Linda Carson at [armyrats@yahoo.com](mailto:armyrats@yahoo.com). Coffee announcements and invitations are sent out via e-mail.**





## **Battalion Briefs**

**It seems like we just did this...**but the Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC) is sneaking up on us again! The next tournament has been scheduled for 4 November at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Train-up for our anticipated victory begins in September.

**Construction...round 2 1/2.** With the renovation of Nett Hall complete, work began on the front entry of Wigle Hall and is well underway. We anticipate returning to that space in September. Further work on the building is expected in the fall.

**So far, far away.** Echo and Delta Companies got to literally blaze some new OCS territory, settling into the woody (and tortoise-inhabited) terrain at K-20 for FLX II-III. The site is nearly 30 miles from OCS garrison.

**It's deja vous all over again.** Although the OCS curriculum has long since been reduced from 22 weeks to 14, the arrival of BOLC II returns the pre-OBC training time for new Second Lieutenants to 21 weeks.

## **PASTOR'S PEN**

In my line of work, I hear many rumors about everything from behavior to relationships to careers. If I leaped at every one to police up the situation, I would not get much else done. It seems that rumors and gossip are part and parcel of any human institution, to include the Army and—you better believe it—the church.

Well, I want to start a rumor, so here goes: rumor has it that gossip and rumors are not good for morale, good order and discipline, or careers for that matter. Actually, that's no rumor; it is fact. The wrong thing said at the wrong time—whether or not it is true—can destroy reputations and careers. If nothing else, they compromise a unit's ability to function efficiently: a unit can quickly divert so much of its energy into sorting out rumors that jobs go undone. For the Soldier trying to fend off a rumor, true or not, the energy spent can be devastating. Regardless of where you are in a rumor chain, trust is severely damaged. Performance suffers. Family suffers. Readiness suffers. When we engage in rumors, we create fallen comrades.

As battle buddies and, frankly, as human beings, we are called to a higher standard. The best way to quash a rumor is to not repeat it, thus breaking the chain. The truth may be “out there,” but rumoring is not the way to get to it. As for misconduct, there are channels to report it, but we do not serve ourselves by whispering about alleged events we ourselves did not see behind one another's backs. We all have a mission to accomplish, and we hurt ourselves and our mission if we constantly have to dig ourselves out of the swamp of rumors. Let's continue to place our mission first and leave gossip—not our comrades—behind.

**CH Eric Thompson**  
BN Chaplain

